



State Senator

**Dan
Debicella**



STRATFORD WILL HAVE FINAL SAY ON AIRPORT

In early June, Connecticut passed a law stating that Stratford will have final say in anything that happens to Sikorsky Memorial Airport, and in any decision to move Main Street.

Thanks to the unified, bipartisan, effort of State Representatives John Harkins, Larry Miller, Terry Backer, and me, the General Assembly passed legislation giving Stratford time to consider its options; nothing relating to the airport can happen without the town's permission until April 15, 2008. Ultimately, we are committed to guaranteeing that Stratford residents have the final say.

Currently, there are three ideas under consideration:

- ***Moving Main Street:*** Connecticut's Department of Transportation (DOT) recently released a plan to move Main Street near the airport to provide for a safety buffer for planes taking off or landing. DOT officials say the safety buffer will neither extend the runway nor allow for larger commercial flights. However, I believe we need to take a close look at this proposal before agreeing to it. I have always opposed the expansion of the airport – but, of course, I am concerned about safety. Before agreeing to the DOT proposal, everyone needs to be convinced that it will not lead to an expansion of the airport.
- ***Stratford Buying the Airport:*** Bridgeport is interested in selling the airport - and Stratford might want to consider buying it. While expensive for taxpayers, purchasing the airport would allow Stratford to fully control the airport, use the land for economic development, or do something else. A decision to purchase the airport should be subject to local referendum.
- ***Connecticut Buying the Airport:*** I am strongly opposed to the state buying the airport, as this would largely remove it from Stratford's control. For this reason, I and Stratford's three state representatives continue to oppose this option. We successfully stopped legislation that would have allowed the state to buy the airport this year.

I will work to make sure that Stratford has a final say over the fate of Sikorsky Memorial Airport, along with any changes to Main Street. I am pleased the General Assembly passed legislation giving Stratford time to consider options and make decisions – and, if necessary, will propose extending the moratorium to ensure that nothing happens without Stratford's approval.

If you want more information on this issue, or if there is anything I can do for you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (800) 842-1421 or e-mail me at dan.debicella@cga.ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan".